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**U.S. CHARGES TOP OFFICIALS AT FIVE NYC CONSTRUCTION
COMPANIES WITH MAKING ILLEGAL CASH PAYMENTS
TO UNION OFFICIALS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, GORDON S. HEDDELL, the Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, announced today the unsealing of five indictments in Manhattan federal court, each charging a top official with a New York City heavy construction company with making years of illegal labor payments to union officers at Locals 14 and 15 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, and with depriving the members of Locals 14 and 15 of the honest services of their elected union officials. Each indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy, mail fraud, and violations of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The Indictments charge the following individuals, all of whom are principals of heavy construction companies in the New York City area: DINO TOMASSETTI, the President of LAQUILA CONSTRUCTION, INC.; JOHN AMICUCCI, the President of DeFOE

CORPORATION; GUERINO CAVALIERE, the President of ACME SKILLMAN CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.; EDWARD SIMPSON, the Chief Engineer of NAB CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION; and PETER RUTTURA, the Vice-President of RUTTURA & SONS. The Indictments allege that each of the defendants have made illegal payments to officials of Local 14 and 15 for many years.

Specifically, TOMASSETTI is alleged to have employed members of Locals 14 and 15 and to have made cash payments to business agents and business managers of Locals 14 and 15, elected union officials whose job it was to ensure that contractors abided by the terms of the collective bargaining agreements signed by the contractors and the union. TOMASSETTI is charged with making such payments from 1991 through December 2001.

CAVALIERE and SIMPSON are charged with making cash payments to business managers and business agents of Locals 14 and 15 from 1991 through December 2001, while their companies employed members of Locals 14 and 15 on various job sites in New York. AMICUCCI and RUTTURA are alleged to have made such illegal payments to business agents of Locals 14 and 15 from 1998 through December 2000.

The five indictments unsealed today are the latest charges to be filed in an ongoing investigation of corruption and organized crime influence involving Locals 14 and 15 of the International Union of Operating Engineers. In February 2003,

over 40 defendants, including members and associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family and the Colombo Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, as well as various construction contractors and union officials representing Locals 14 and 15, were charged with, among other things, racketeering, extortion, and mail fraud, in two separate cases filed in federal court in Manhattan and Brooklyn by the United States Attorney's Offices for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. All of the defendants in those two cases have pled guilty.

The conspiracy, mail fraud, and Taft-Hartley charges in the indictments each carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. The total maximum penalty faced by each of the defendants is 15 years' imprisonment. All of the defendants but Mr. SIMPSON are scheduled to be arraigned on the indictments later today.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Labor, and the New York City Police Department for their assistance in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys BENJAMIN M. LAWSKY and JONATHAN S. KOLODNER are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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